

Shining as Lights in the World: By Holding Fast the Word of Life

Philippians 2:12

12 ¶ Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

14 ¶ Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

v15 Light comes from the word phosteres which indicates reflected light as an illuminator such as the moon

Where would light do the most good? In Darkness!

Just how important is the Word of Life?

John 12:46 Jesus said...

46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

47 And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

Psalms 119:105 David wrote...

105 Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

2 Timothy 2:15 Paul speaking to Timothy... (NKJ be diligent to present thyself)

15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Are you a disciple of Jesus Christ?

John 8:31

31 ¶ Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed;

The Word of God is Powerful

Hebrews 4:12

(alive)

12 For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Matthew 13:18 Jesus speaking...

18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth *it* not, then cometh the wicked *one*, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

(comments on next page)

- The Word of God is so powerful that Satan is going to be wherever the Word is taught in order that he might be there to snatch it away from one's heart

How important is it that we: Hold Fast the Word of Life?

Hebrews 4:1

1 ¶ Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left *us* of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

Matthew 7:13 Jesus speaking...

13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

14 Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Noah 8 souls saved after 120 years of preaching

Matthew 7:21 Jesus speaking...

21 ¶ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Why was the fall of it great? Because the foolish man will spend eternity in HELL!

2 Peter 2:20

20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein,

and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog *is* turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

Romans 8:35

35 **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

If all these powerful things can not separate us from the love of Christ, who or what can?

OURSELVES

How do we “Hold Forth the Word of Life”?

Matthew 28:19

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the

Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe **all** things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

Our duty as man on this earth: to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost.

GOD: The Power of Light

Matthew 27:45

45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. (12 noon - 3PM)

46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

I believe that for God to allow Jesus to die on the cross; God had had to turn away

Matthew 5:14 Jesus speaking...

14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Business: Impress a customer: 1/10 may tell someone else

Wrong a customer: 8/10 will tell someone else

Not only do we have to talk the talk, we must also walk the walk!

Ephesians 5:8

8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

I'm just one person - maybe only a housewife - what difference can I make?

1 Peter 3:1

1 ¶ Likewise, ye wives, *be* in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;

2 While they behold your chaste conversation *coupled* with fear.

(conversation - manner of life)

Shining Light or Darkness?

1 John 1:5

5 ¶ This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

True Christians - most powerful tool Christ has to carry out the work of the church
of saving souls

Those professing to be Christians but are not - most powerful tool Satan has to
destroy the church and cause souls to be lost

Are you Shining as a Light for Christ the World?

1 Peter 2:9

9 But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:

What kind of example will your life leave?

President Ronald Reagan - 3-28-85 - St John's University

“The house we hope to build is not for my generation but for yours. It is your future that matters. And I hope that when you are my age, you will be able to say: We lived in freedom. We lived lives that were a statement, not an apology.”

Hebrews 11:4

4 ¶ By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

Philippians 2:15

15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

If your life were to end at this moment, would you be ready to go? Paul was:

2 Timothy 4:6

6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

A place in heaven is prepared for you: Are you prepared for heaven?

John 14:1

1 ¶ Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

Why would you have any doubt about doing something that would cause joy in Heaven?

Luke 15:10

10 Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

What is required for obedience to the gospel?

One must have FAITH

Hebrews 11:6

6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

One must REPENT

Luke 13:3 Jesus said...

3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

One must CONFESS Christ

Acts 8:37

37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

One must BAPTIZED

Acts 2:38

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 2:47 ...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.